Amendments to the Specification:

On page 6, the paragraph starting at line 22:

A1

According to [a] another aspect of the invention there is provided a method of increasing the BW allocated to working traffic within a transport network connecting two data terminals, comprising, selecting a first and a second route between said end nodes and distributing the total BW available for said transport network between said routes as a first and a second BW, transmitting traffic in a data pipe of said total BW during normal operation of said transport network along said first and said second routes, and squeezing said data pipes to one of said first and second BW, whenever a protection switch occurs in said transport network, wherein flow control mechanisms present at said data terminal operate to compensate for the change from said first to said second BW.

On page 10, the paragraph starting at line 11:

A2

The term 'route' is used to define the physical connection (fiber spans) between two L2/L3 terminals, the connection passing through a number of intervening nodes. ["]'Diverse routing' refers to different routes engineered for working and protection traffic.

On page 13, the paragraph starting at line 10:

A3

As a result, a failure in the working route 7 is restored inside the 50 ms SONET/SDH switching time, but, since the protection route 8 is slower, the data user 1 will throttle back as the bandwidth performance is reduced. Nonetheless, the L-3 of the network does not [loose] lose the connection, but sees reduced performance. This allows flow control mechanisms of the higher layers to gracefully restore and recover.

On page 14, the paragraph starting at line 22:

A4

An example of option [a-e] c-d is to use for the working pipe 7 an Ethernet 100baseT, carried in an OC-3c as a virtually concatenated VT1.5. In event of a failure on working pipe 7, the switches 25 and 25' operate as in the previous embodiment to initiate a protection switch, and the data devices 1 and 2 are accordingly informed. In response to this signalling, the number of virtual containers across interfaces 20 and 30 is squeezed to the squeezed rate serviceable on link

8. This reduces the data rate of the interfaces from 100baseT to 10baseT (from the data perspective), but keeps the transmission interface at OC3. The data user 1 then changes mapping from 100baseT frames into the concatenated containers, to 10baseT into a smaller number of concatenated containers. The receiving equipment likewise changes mapping. The Ethernet mapper 30' will take corrective measures to compensate for the reduced rate.

A4

On page 15, the paragraph starting at line 18:

With option b, if route 7 is interrupted, the traffic between the data terminals can take place only along route 8, but the data terminals will squeeze the traffic normally [send] <u>sent</u> over route 7 on route 8. The LTE nodes 19 and 21 on both routes are unaffected, since this is a path switching operation.

A5

On page 16, the paragraph starting at line 24:

Line protected squeezable pipes may be provisioned using a mix of currently available services, as shown in Figure 2 at f and g. Option f provides for a non-route diverse asymmetric pipe with the BW in the squeezed state less than the BW in the unsqueeze[s]<u>d</u> state. SONET selective protection could be used to provide the protected/unprotected connections required for this embodiment.

A6

On page 19, the paragraph starting at line 22:

Transition [form] <u>from</u> the normal state 100 to squeezed state 110 is triggered by the STS path AIS received from a LTE node involved in a line protection switching operation, as shown by 101.

A7

On page 19, the paragraph starting at line 31:

A[n] PTE node [transits] <u>transitions</u> from the recovery state 120 back to a squeezed state if it receives STS path AIS on the squeezed out STS's, shown by line 112. Finally, transitions from squeezed state 110 to the normal state 100 take place when the STS path AIS recovers, line 102.

A8